THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTEMNT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegation of powers to Coal India Ltd.

2402. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have decided to delegate more powers to Coal India Limited ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) to what extent it would be helpful in the functioning of the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c) The Department of Coal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Coal India Limited for the first time for the year 1989-90. As a result of signing of this Memorandum of Understanding some additional powers have been delegated to Coal India Limited. These additional powers includes :—

(i) Power to re-appropriate budget between groups and subsidiaries provided funds are not diverted to new projects sanctioned by the coal companies after 31-3-1989.

(ii) Powers to incur expenditure on replacement and renewal of assets due to normal wear and tear upto Rs. 50 crores provided the funds can be found from the internal resourses of the company and the expenditure is incurred on schemes included in the capital budget approved by the Government.

(iii) Powers to transfer Board members/CMDs.

(iv) Powers to nominate upto two part-time directors on the Board of subsidiaries.

(v) Powers to sanction foreign vists of all the officers of Coal India Limited and subsidiaries except the Chairman, CIL. These powers are subject to the condition that such visits are not funded by any foreign agency unless it is part of an approved project/contract.

(vi) Certain additional powers given by Office Memorandum No. E 4(2) FEB. I/89 dated 25-3-1989 of the Ministry of Finance regarding engagement of foreign technicians, payments relating to foreign collaborations and material imports.

Delegation of these powers will facilitate Coal India Ltd., to discharge its functions and responsibilities more effectively.

Uniform prices of coal

2403. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to ensure uniform prices of coal throughout the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what is the justification of imposing restrictions by the Central Government on the end use of natural gas by the State concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Use of natural gas is determined by the need to optimise its use, given the variety of uses to which gas can be put and the alternatives available to gas for such uses.

Setting up a centre for development for electricity Co-operatives

2404. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a centre for development of electricity co-operatives ; and

(b) if so, what is the main purpose of setting up such co-operatives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Kerosene in West Bengal

2405. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total demand of kerosene in West Bengal during the period Jan.'89 to June '89 monthwise :

(b) what is the total central allocation and actual supply to the State ; and

(c) what are the reasons for this acute crisis of kerosene in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) to (c) The Kerosene requirements of States and UTs including West Bengal are assessed by allowing suitable growth rate over the allocation made in the corresponding period of the previous year, and allocations are made accordingly. Besides the regular allocation adhoc releases are also given to meet specific situations like floods, drought, shortage of LPG, etc.

2. Allocation of kerosene to West Bengal from January to June, 1989 has been made in accordance with the above policy. The State Government had requested for enhancement of State's allocation. This was considered and keeping in view the availability of product, a quantity of 1000 tonnes each for March and June, 1989 was allocated.

3. The details of the allocation and supplies of SKO made to West Bengal during January to June, 1989 are given below ;—

(Figures in tonnes)

Month	Regular allocation	Adhoc allocation	Total allocation	Releases
Jan. 89	58900	..	58900	59394
Feb. 89	58900	..	58900	59068
March 89	56460	1000	57460	58070
April 89	56460	..	56460	56835
May 89	56460	..	56460	56980
June 89	56460	1000	57460	Not available.